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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,226	12/31/2003	Ronald L. Black	21898.00	7140

37833 7590 06/13/2006

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EXAMINER

ABOAGYE, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1725

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- I. Claims 1-10 drawn a purge gas saver for a brazing installation that includes: a valve housing, a plunger, an adjustable screw, and a compression spring.
- II. Claims 11-20 drawn to a purge gas saving brazing installation that includes: a dual torch gas shutoff valve, a brazing torch, a pivot arm, a valve housing, a plunger, an adjustment screw and a compression spring.

2. The species are independent or distinct because the differences between disclosed species are such that each species would require a different search

(example a search for the species I will not uncover the species II which includes a brazing torch, a pivot arm and a dual torch gas shutoff valve). As a result, the species disclosed in the instant application are independent inventions as defined in MPEP 806.04 ("If it can be shown that the two or more inventions are in fact independent, applicant should be required to restrict the claims presented to but one of such independent inventions."). Further, regarding election of species, MPEP 808.01(a) sets forth that "when claims are directed to independent inventions, restriction is proper pursuant to 35 USC 121, and it is not necessary to show a separate status in the art or separate classification."

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3. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

4. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.

MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one

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or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Aboagye whose telephone number is 571-272-8165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Michael Aboagye
Assistant Examiner
Art unit 1725

06/08/2006

KEVIN KERNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Kevin Kerns 6/8/06